



## hackberry butterfly

*Asterocampa celtis*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda  
Class: Insecta  
Order: Lepidoptera  
Family: Nymphalidae

### FEATURES

The hackberry butterfly adult has a wing span between one and three-fourths and two and one-half inches. Each front wing of this insect has a single black spot in the lower left portion of the wing. This orange-brown butterfly also has a black bar, two smaller black spots and white markings on the front wing. Each rear wing has black spots. The caterpillar is yellow-green with yellow spots along the midline and three yellow lines along each side.

### BEHAVIORS

The hackberry butterfly may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in forests but may be found as a wanderer in other locations. The adults flap and glide when flying. The adult may eat solid animal waste, rotten fruits and sap. Larvae feed in groups, eating sugarberry and hackberry leaves. Larvae overwinter in groups inside dead leaves.

### HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

### ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.